

France, Bibliothèque publique d'information du Centre Pompidou (BCP), in Paris on the afternoon of May 31, 2023. The agreement was signed by NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng and BCP Director Christine Carrier. Working behind the scenes to make this happen was Representative Chih-chung Wu from the Bureau de Représentation de Taipei en France, who was invited to give remarks at the event. Also in attendance were Director of the Education Section Mei-chen Lu and the directors of many departments (including the international collaboration department) from BCP.



The National Central Library and Bibliothèque publique d'information du Centre Pompidou showing the signed agreement, with Representative Wu looking on.

Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng stated BCP is a part of the Centre Pompidou. Signing this agreement aims at strengthening the collaborative relationship between the two libraries and to jointly promote reading and raise cultural literacy. It also will provide opportunities in the future for libraries and personnel to engage in cultural exchange, and through the sharing of experiences and resources lay a firm foundation for more collaborative projects to engage in. NCL will help even more people overseas come to understand Taiwan culture through its collaboration with the Centre Pompidou and in disseminating publications from Taiwan.

As one of the most important modern and contemporary art centers in Europe, BCP is known for its abundance of materials and its creative cultural events. It was established in 1977 and is located in the four-story building of the Centre Pompidou. It boasts a lot of space and modernized facilities. Its aim is to provide the public with an open and

diverse knowledge resource with which to promote cultural exchange and understanding. It has over 500,000 volumes and more than 1,000 newspapers and magazines in its collection. It also has a sizable collection of audiovisual materials, including movies, videotapes, and musical scores. The library also hosts various cultural events and exhibitions, such as symposiums, reading groups, workshops, and forums. These events are used to promote the arts and culture, fully bringing together the function of both art center and library to create an innovative and inspiring environment. It has not only become an important cultural venue for Parisians but also for international visitors too. It has attracted many people from all over the world to come and seek knowledge, culture, and art. The amount of knowledge that has been exchanged and shared with people is amazing.

To express its appreciation to a new partner, the National Central Library presented BCP with a replica copy of the *Diamond Sutra* published in 1341. The original work is a national treasure in Taiwan and was the first dual-colored print version, making it extremely rare. Thus, in the history of printing, it enjoys a very important place. During its transmission, it became imbued with a rich sense of legend. By sharing such classics, it symbolizes the value and uniqueness of our mutual collaboration.



NCL presenting Bibliothèque publique d'information du Centre Pompidou with a replica copy of the national treasure the Diamond Sutra as a symbolic gift.

■ Book Donation Ceremony in Honor of Professor Otto Ladstätter

On April 10, the National Central Library held a book donation ceremony for precious books from the family of Austrian sinologist Professor Otto Ladstätter

(1933-2005). Family representative Professor Markus Ladstätter, and his daughter, came from Austria to attend this extraordinary event. Intimates of Professor Ladstätter, who made the donation, were invited to the ceremony: Fr. Luis Gutheinz of Fun-jen Faculty of Theology of St. Robert Bellarmine, Director Dr. Mei Tin Huang, Monumenta Serica Sinological Research Center (MSSRC), Fu-jen Catholic University, and many other scholars and experts were present to pay witness to the event.

Delivering remarks, National Central Library Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng first expressed her gratitude to the Ladstätter family for donating the books to the library. She also thanked the family representatives Professor Markus Ladstätter and his daughter for traveling all the way to Taiwan for the occasion. After the books (over 6,000 volumes in total) arrived in Taiwan on July 19 for relevant processing, there were seen to be about 150 rare books of over 100 years old. The oldest book was published in 1834. These rare books will be held in the collection of the NCL Special Collections Division and are expected to be digitized and available to readers for online reading. Another 1,716 volumes have been displayed in the National Central Library's Matteo Ricci & Pacific Studies Reading Room for readers to borrow. The remainder of the books and materials will also be made available one after the other for readers to borrow in the future. Director-General Tseng also once again thanked Fr. Luis Gutheinz and Director Dr. Mei Tin Huang for initially accepting appointment by the museum to contact and hold discussions with the family of Professor Otto Ladstätter, and facilitate the donation of the books to the National Central Library.

Invited to deliver remarks, Professor Ladstätter expressed his gratitude to Director-General Tseng for organizing this book donation ceremony for his father. He also recalled that when Fr. Luis Gutheinz discussed donating the books to the National Central Library with him a few years previously, it was because he felt that Taiwan was a major center for research in sinology, and the library had established a Center for Chinese Studies which contained many sinological resources, that he made the joint decision with his family to proceed with the donation. In particular, Professor Ladstätter gave an introduction to the life of his father: his journey of becoming a sinologist, and the areas covered by his work, including classical Chinese poetry, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Chinese novels of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. His teaching focused on modern China, and modern Chinese; in research, he was revered as a pioneer in conducting research with scientific methods. Through photos and explanations, the distinguished guests and participants seemed to experience and pay witness in person to the rise of an important sinologist.

The library especially arranged for the guests to visit the collection and themed exhibition of Professor Otto Ladstätter's donated books, and to attend the Special Collections Division and Matteo Ricci & Pacific Studies Reading Room. The family members were able to view the books of Professor Ladstätter once again, and were extremely gratified to learn that many readers will enjoy the opportunity to borrow them. The book donation ceremony came to a successful conclusion after this tour of the National Central Library.



Director-General Tseng presenting a commemorative plaque in gratitude, which was received by Professor Markus Ladstätter in his capacity as representative of the family.



A group photo of the Book Donation Ceremony in Honor of Professor Otto Ladstätter.